

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references cited with the *Information Disclosure Statement* filed September 23, 2004.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-14 and 19 are all the claims pending in the Application. Claims 1-14 and 19 stand rejected.

Indefiniteness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The informality noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-14 is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Sawada* (US 6,618,340; hereinafter “*Sawada*”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Sawada* fails to teach or suggest: (1) that “radially inner ends of the second disk support lugs are axially displaceable from a first storage position to a second holding position,” where “axially is defined as a direction parallel to an axis of rotation of the disks;” or (2) a “stopper arranged to retain the radially inner ends of the second disk support lugs in the second holding position,” as recited in independent claim 19.

First, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s assertion that claw pieces 15a and 15b of *Sawada* are “axially displaceable,” is incorrect. “Axially” is defined by the claim as

“parallel to an axis of rotation of the disks.” Claw pieces 15a and 15b of *Sawada* are not displaceable in such a direction. Rather, claw pieces 15a and 15b are only radially displaceable, as shown in Figures 9-12.

Second, while *Sawada* discloses moveable claw pieces 15a and 15b, it fails to teach or suggest any particular stopper that retains these claw pieces 15a and 15b in a second holding position. Rather, *Sawada*'s disk support lugs are only held using the friction on the spindle supporting the lugs, as described on page 4 of the specification of the instant Application. Thus, *Sawada* suffers from the same problems discussed on page 4 of the specification of the instant Application.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 19 is patentable over the applied reference. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-14 and 19 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-14 and 19.

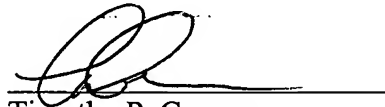
If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
US Appln No. 10/073,419

Docket No. Q68489

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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